

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Objection to Specification

Applicants have amended the specification by way of providing a marked-up copy of a Substitute Specification, without claims, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(b)(3). Also included is a "clean" version of the Substitute Specification, without claims.

Amendments have been made to correct the status of each parent application, for which priority is asserted. Applicant's attorney would like to point out to the Examiner that in the "chain" of continuations and continuations-in-part for which priority is sought under 35 USC § 120, the specification failed to include cross-reference to Attorney Docket No. AD 6571 C, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/585172, filed on June 1, 2000 and now abandoned. Cross-reference has been made to this application in the Substitute Specification and a Petition to Accept Unintentionally Delayed Claim Under 35 USC § 120, Under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(3), and the associated fees, accompany this response.

Applicants' attorney has carefully reviewed the other applications in the cross-reference "chain" and has found all previous applications to contain the correct cross-references.

Applicants have also corrected the typographical errors pointed out by the Examiner. The Abstract of the Disclosure has been changed to remove the term "means" and also to more accurately reflect the subject matter of new Claims 18 - 22 submitted herewith and discussed below. The title of the patent application has also been amended to more accurately reflect the subject matter of the new Claims. No new matter has been added.

Rejection Under § 112

In the non-final office action of May 28, 2004, the Examiner rejected, under 35 USC § 112 the then-pending Claims 14 - 17, drawn to a screw. The basis for the rejection was that the claims were of indeterminate scope as the screw limitations were directed to the physical properties of a polymer composition on which the screw was intended to work. Applicants have cancelled Claims 14 - 17 and have submitted new Claims 18 - 22, drawn to a method of injection molding or extruding a polymer composition. Applicants assert that the new Claims are fully supported by the specification and overcome the Examiner's rejection for indeterminate scope.

Rejection Under § 102(b)

Claims 14 - 17 were also rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rauwendal (US 4,129,386) and JP 57-133038. It is respectfully submitted that new Claims 18 - 22 clearly overcome this basis for rejection. Neither reference teaches nor discloses the step of providing a screw having a volume compression ratio greater than or equal to the ratio of the predetermined melt density to the predetermined bulk density of the polymer composition and up to 1.25 X the ratio of the predetermined melt density to the predetermined bulk density of the polymer composition that is to be injection molded or extruded.

Applicants, having shown that new Claims 18 - 22 are allowable over all references of record, respectfully solicit a notice of allowance therefor.

Respectfully submitted,



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